

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 27-35 are allowable and further indicating that claims 10-21 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 27, and 30. Claim 10 has been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, claim 11 (originally filed as a dependent claim) has been amended to be in independent form. Dependent claims 17-21 now depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 11.

Drawings

Applicant requests that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on February 25, 2002, are acceptable.

Claim Objections

Claims 10-21 have been objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 10. Further, dependent claims 12-14 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1. In view of the above amendments, amended claim 1 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 10 and, thus, is allowable. Further, claims 12-16 which depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1 are now also allowable. In addition, dependent claim 11 has been re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim (*i.e.*, claim 1) and any intervening claims (none of which were present in the instant case). Finally, the preambles of dependent claims 14-21 have been amended to be consistent with the preamble of amended independent claim 11.

Thus, amended independent claim 11 and amended claims 17-21 which depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 11 are now allowable. In view of the above amendments, the objection is traversed. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over PGP Freeware Users Guide version 7.0 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,250 (“Stein”). As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 10. In addition, the preambles of claims 22-25 have been amended to be consistent with the preamble of amended independent claim 1.

Thus, amended independent claim 1 is now patentable over the aforementioned references. Further, dependent claims 2-9 and amended dependent claims 22-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claims 2-9 and amended dependent claims 22-25 are also patentable over the aforementioned references. Finally, independent claim 26 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 10. Thus, amended independent claim 26 is now allowable over the cited references. In view of the above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

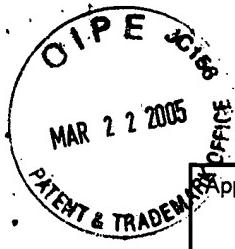
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09469.014001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Response to Office Action dated December 22, 2004

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